

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 00811 191208 Z

52

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 IO-12 AID-20 ACDA-19

MC-02 GAC-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 COME-00 (ADP) W

----- 090605

R 191100 Z MAR 73
FM USINT CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2752
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, LY; EGEN

SUBJ: CAIRO PRESS NOTES

1. PHANTOMS FOR ISRAEL CONTINUES TO DRAW MAJOR ATTENTION
IN EGYPTIAN PRESS. ONLY NEW DEVELOPMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
OVER WEEKEND, HOWEVER, IS REFLECTED IN MARCH 19 AHARAM, WHICH
STATES THAT GOE IS IN PROCESS OF MAKING " URGENT CONTACTS"
WITH SEVERAL ARAB CAPITALS CONCERNING PHANTOM DEAL.
ACCORDING TO AHARAM, CONTACTS FOCUS ON " MEANING" OF DEAL, AS
WELL AS ITS DELIBERATE ANNOUNCEMENT, AT THIS TIME. OF
POSSIBLE RELEVANCE TO AHARAM' S ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOE CONTACTS
WITH OTHER ARAB STATES IS NOTE IN MARCH 18 PRESS THAT
PEOPLE' S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER HAFEZ BEDAWI LEFT FOR KUWAIT
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 00811 191208 Z

MARCH 17 WITH SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM SADAT TO SABAH.

2. CURRENCY SMUGGLING RING BUSTED. OVER PAST MONTH, PRESS HAS SURFACED INDICATIONS THAT GOE POLICE WERE CONDUCTING BROAD INVESTIGATION OF CASE INVOLVING ILLEGAL CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS. MARCH 19 AHRAM AND AKHBAR CARRY MAJOR ARTICLES TO EFFECT THAT RING, WHICH INCLUDED 65 INDIVIDUALS AND WHICH MANAGED TO IMPORT GOODS FOR SALE ON BLACK MARKET AND SMUGGLE OUT OF EGYPT SEVEN MILLION POUNDS IN FIVE YEARS, HAS BEEN SMASHED. RING LEADER IS REPORTEDLY ITALIAN, AND ROME WAS CENTER OF OPERATIONS. RING ALSO INCLUDED AMERICANS, GREEKS, GERMANS, FRENCH, LEBANESE AND OTHER ITALIANS, AS WELL AS EGYPTIANS. AMERICANS INVOLVED REPORTEDLY WORKED FOR AMERICAN OIL COMPANY, AMOCO SUBCONTRACTORS, AND SEVERAL OTHER FIRMS.

3. EGYPT/ LIBYA. PRESS NOTED THAT SADAT MET ON MARCH 17 WITH LIBYAN RCC MEMBER JALLUD. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT JOINT COMMITTEE FOR UNIFICATION OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS WILL MEET IN APRIL TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATED TO UNIFICATION OF ASU ORGANIZATIONS. COMMITTEE WILL COMPLETE FINAL REPORT AT END OF APRIL FOR STUDY AT NEXT MEETING OF JOINT POLITICAL COMMAND. ADDITIONALLY, PRESS REPORTS THAT ON MARCH 18, FOREIGN AFFAIRS MERGER COMMITTEE DISCUSSED DRAFT LAW FOR UNIFICATION OF EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS.

4. MARCH 19 PRESS REPORTS ASU FIRST SECRETARY MAR' I WILL RETURN TO CAIRO MARCH 21; FOLLOWING HIS RETURN, MAR' I WILL REPORTEDLY VISIT SAUDI ARABIA AND SUDAN. FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYYAT WILL REPORTEDLY BE BACK IN CAIRO ON MARCH 30, FOLLOWING VISIT TO BAGHDAD.
GREENE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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